IIT and Central University in Himachal Pradesh

356. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an IIT and a Central University in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to set up an IIT or a Central University in Orissa to meet the long-standing demand of the people of this backward State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURNADESWARI): (a) to (c) Government has decided to set up 16 Central Universities in States which do not have a Central University at present, including one each in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa. A decision, in priniciple, has also been taken to set up one IIT in Himachal Pradesh. Request of the Government of Orissa for an IIT will be kept in mind while deciding locations of four new IITs to be set up in the 11th Plan, in respect of which locational decisions are yet to be taken.

Universities as Moribund Centres

357. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the universities, in particular, instead of developing into vibrant centres of high quality education and research able to attract both good faculty and students, have become largely moribund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what quality of primary and higher education Government is providing now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURNADESWARI): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that the universities in India have become largely moribund. Out of 140 universities accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council upto 31.3.2007, 89 universities have been graded as 'B' category and above.

(c) Improvement of quality and standards is a continuous process, and there is always need and scope for improvement. All out efforts are being made for improving quality of primary education through measures including provisions of adequate number of teachers, facilities for training of teachers, structures to provide on site academic support, development of teaching learning material and text books for children from special focus groups etc. In higher education, the interventions for providing quality includes grants to universities/ colleges with potential for excellence, research projects, fellowships schemes for pursuing M. Phil and Ph.D, orientation and refresher programmes for teachers and strengthening of research in universities.

Demand for skilled workers

358. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's demand for highly educated and skilled workers was already out stripping supply, according to a World Bank study;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to improve the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to a 2007 World Bank study "Unleashing India's Innovation: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth", India's demand for highly educated and skilled knowledge workers outstrips the supply. The report states that the high demand is partly fuelled by India's popularity as an R & D destination for multi-national corporations and partly by blossoming of India's IT and IT-enabled service sectors.

(c) For meeting demand of highly educated and skilled workers, the University Grants Commission identifies the universities and colleges with potential for excellence and gives financial assistance to universities and colleges. UGC is also implementing a Special Assistance Programme (SAP) wherein assistance is given to eligible Department of universities having potential for quality teaching and research in various disciplines. UGC also approves vocational courses in several universities. The Government is implementing Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) for improving the quality of technical education. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also an All India Board of Studies in Information Technology, which advises the Council on, *inter-alia,* the model curricula for IT courses and their upgradation. Besides, a programme of Finishing School for unemployed engineering graduates, so as to prepare them for the IT/ ITeS Industries, has been taken up since 2007-08.

Ministry of Labour and Employment has also taken up the following new schemes to increase the skilled workforce in the country:

(i) Upgradation of training infrastructure of 500 Government ITIs, 100 ITIs with the funding from Government of India whereas 400 ITIs with the assistance from the World Bank.

(ii) Upgradation of remaining 1396 Government Industrial Training Institutes under Public Private Partnership.

(iii) A scheme under the title "Skill Development Initiative" has also been taken up to impart short term Modular Employable Skills under which 231 short term courses have been developed.

Central Board of Secondary Education and various other Examination Boards offer vocational streams and vocational courses including IT-related courses at the higher secondary level for skill development.

Charges in private schools

359. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private recognized schools in Delhi and National Capital Region are selling application forms and prospectus at high prices and are also charging high registration fees; and

(b) what is Government's policy on such charges and what is the regulatory framework for operation and charging of fees and other costs by private recognized schools in Delhi, NCR and other parts of the country?